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STATE OF WAR ON. SPEEDY INVASION OF NATAL BY THE BOERS EXPECTED.

BRITISH BELIEVE THEIR DEFENSIVE
LINES ON THE TRANSVAAL BORDERS
CAN BE HELD UNTIL GENERAL
BULLER'S ARRIVAL—THE SITUATION
LAST NIGHT.

(By cable to the Tribune.)
London, Oct. 11, 11:15 p.m.—Up to the present hour no dispatches have arrived from the Cape timed since the expiration of the ultimatum, so it is not yet known whether the first shot has been fired.

A telegram from Pretoria, timed 7:30 yesterday evening, says:

"The situation is becoming hourly more critical. Numerous Americans, Germans, Frenchmen, Dutchmen, and Cape Afrikans, Boers have fled to the border to fight for the Transvaal, although they are not burghers, while many British residents also have taken the oath of allegiance. The hope is expressed by many that war will yet be averted."

Nothing since this has been received from Pretoria, and doubtless telegraphic communication with the Transvaal is now cut.

The absence of news from the Cape since early morning is not due to an interruption of the cable, but to the immense pressure of work, the cables probably being nearly monopolized by British Government dispatches, which take precedence of all others. Only two cables run to Cape Town from Europe, and the one on the eastern coast is very slow, so that practically

"The campaign will not be a serious one," he said, "until the beginning of December, when General Sir Redvers Buller will be prepared to march through the open country of the Orange Free State and leave Sir George White well en-trenched in Natal. The Boers will not be allowed to fight on their favorite battlefields."

Mr. Chamberlain's reply to Secretary Reitz's ultimatum is known to be brief and barely civil. His week ended when Reitz's insolent dispatch arrived. An old whist player remarked to say that Kruger had suddenly made a new deal of the pack and put thirteen trumps into the hand of Mr. Chamberlain, who had simply laid down his cards to win the game. A veteran lawyer made this incisive comment to-day: "Chamberlain had a bad case in law under the convention of 1884, but a thundering good case in facts and natural justice; but Reitz, by his insatiable greed, has changed the scope and tenor and converted a technical dispute over the conditions of suzerainty into a test case of the supremacy of the British Crown and the unity of the empire."

There is a general revulsion of feeling throughout the country respecting the whole controversy. The nation is suddenly united as one man in defense of the empire. The outgoing soldiers received the greetings of excited and enthusiastic multitudes. War is now welcomed, since Kruger has justified English resistance to a secession movement within the empire. The English conscience is no longer disturbed by any scruples respecting the justice and necessity of war. President Kruger, by a single bold stroke, has convinced everybody except Mr. Sted that the English have a righteous cause. The greatest English battle for the empire since Waterloo is coming on, and with eighty-five thousand regulars in South Africa victory will be certain.

A well-known South African said to-day that, while President Kruger was getting old, he never had allowed anyone to dictate policies to him, and that it was a mistake to assume that he had been *ruled* by young and restless burghers. As the birthday of the grim old President coincided with the ultimatum, it is more natural to suppose that he was influenced by death in his own destiny as the last of the Dutch conquerors. This informant added that there was no rival who could resist Kruger's will. Reitz was simply clay in the potter's hand. Joubert was the best-natured and most honorable man in the Transvaal, but lacked the grit required for opposing Kruger on any question.

Mr. Sted in all communications since October 2 has been to leave nothing undone to prevent such action on the part of the Transvaal as is calculated to make a peace solution finally impossible. I cannot, however, ask the Imperial Government for a pledge either regarding the disposition of troops in British territory in South Africa or their dispatch from other parts of the empire.

L. N. F.

WAR NOT OF BRITISH SEEKING.

MR. BALFOUR DEFENDS THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

London, Oct. 11.—A flood of oratory on the Transvaal situation burst out to-night. A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, Henry Herbert Asquith, former Home Secretary, and others sat down in different parts of the country to defend the South Africanists of Huddington, said:

GENERAL BULLER'S DEPARTURE.

Great preparations are being made at Southwark for the departure on Saturday of General Sir Redvers Buller, and a magnificent demonstration is anticipated. The Duke of Connaught, the Duke of York, Lord Lansdowne, the Lord Wolsley and General Sir Edward H. Smith are expected to accompany him to South Africa from London.

A great change has taken place in the last few months in the opinion of this country regarding our South African policy. There was in the clear conviction which now exists among us that war was inevitable, and that through the arbitration of force the public has known of what the Government has done and what they aimed at, that the moment if they had given up all hope on the side of patience. Those who say that the prospects of peace are finally gone, and that though at the moment I am unable to see any signs of war, yet we may finally have begun that war, are in error. We are not seeking war, nor are we not seeking the freedom of our country by an alliance with the Boers who fear that the hour of their domination is at an end.

Now that the prospects of peace are finally gone, and that war, with all its horrors, is inevitable, the public has known of what the Government has done and what they aimed at, that the moment if they had given up all hope on the side of patience. Those who say that the prospects of peace are finally gone, and that though at the moment I am unable to see any signs of war, yet we may finally have begun that war, are in error. We are not seeking war, nor are we not seeking the freedom of our country by an alliance with the Boers who fear that the hour of their domination is at an end.

It is announced that the fleet of transports conveying General Sir Redvers Buller's army corps will be escorted by warships, while further dispatch boats and gunboats will be sent to South African waters.

The Government has already expended 25,000,000 in naval and military preparations, the orders placed with contractors this week alone amounting to 100,000. The authorities, anticipating a serious reduction in the output of the South African coal mines, have ordered five thousand tons of English steam coal to be sent to the Cape for the use of the warships.

If the latest reports, which are confirmed from various points in South Africa, are true, the Boers have not waited for the expiration of the time limit but have already crossed the border, as they would be entitled to do even in virtue of the notification contained in the last paragraph of the ultimatum and also of the British acknowledgment, which reached Pretoria so speedily as to justify a belief amounting almost to certainty, that the war party in Great Britain, while welcoming an act which has deprived the country of all peaceful alternatives and given it the great superficial advantage to be derived from the fact that the adversary has voluntarily assumed the stigma of virtually declaring war, was eagerly awaiting its chance, and despite newspaper attempts to cool the real feeling, is in reality delighted that diplomacy has said its last word and that action can now proceed.

GREAT BRITAIN UNPREPARED.

There will inevitably be a long period of suspense, together with a great deal of chafing at present, as all indications go to show that Great Britain is unprepared as to be compelled to remain on the defensive for some weeks. All the aggressiveness must come from the Boers.

It seems highly probable that the "Union of Natal," as far as Newcastle, will be in the hands of the Boers before many hours. From that point, however, in the event of a further advance, they would probably find British forces at Ladysmith and Durban capable of repelling their attacks.

A vast majority of the British people, Mr. Balfour declared, contemplated the war with trepidation and aversion, and saw in it little or no prospect either of advantage or of military glory. It was not with a light heart they took up the challenge, but now that it was forced upon them they would see it through.

The Right Hon. William St. John Brodrick, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, announced in a speech at Guildford that the Government had made the only possible reply to

SUPT. MAXWELL ATTACKED THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

COMMISSIONERS TRY TO SUPPRESS HIS CRITICISM OF BROOKLYN SCHOOLS.

HE DECLARIES THAT TEACHERS ARE COM-Pelled TO RESORT TO "THE TRICKS OF THE LOWEST GRADE OF POLITICIANS."

The regular meeting of the Board of Education, held yesterday afternoon, was marked by a sharp attack on Superintendent Maxwell by some of the Brooklyn Commissioners in a manner which must have made him feel very uncomfortable. The trouble started through the presentation of Superintendent Maxwell's first annual report of the schools of greater New-York. In the report he took occasion to make a long criticism of the Brooklyn school system, and styled it as injurious, greatly regarding the advance of education, and saying that it made political pull and "influence" necessary to secure places. The criticism read:

"The Borough of Brooklyn is permitted by the charter to retain for the present its old committee system of appointment, transferring and promoting principals to other schools. This exception to the general system of appointment makes it difficult to prevail throughout the city, is provided for by the following sentence found in Section 1369 of the City Charter: 'The system or mode of nomination of the teacher of any school shall be determined by the Board of Education, the right to appoint to promote and transfer teachers of any school, and other members of the teaching staff, with the consent of the borough in which, at the time this act takes effect, said Board of Education enjoys such right of appointment without nomination by superintendents and other persons, and the same shall be retained by the Board of Education of such borough.'"

The last clause of this sentence enables the School Board of Brooklyn to get rid of a simple resolution of a system of appointment, which is the best way to deprive any school board that has been a Board of Education of the right to appoint to promote and transfer teachers of any school, and other members of the teaching staff, with the consent of the borough in which, at the time this act takes effect, said Board of Education enjoys such right of appointment without nomination by superintendents and other persons, and the same shall be retained by the Board of Education of such borough."

The ticket is the one agreed to at the City Club's conference, with the addition of the name of Justice Barrett and the dropping of the name of George C. Holt. A decision to drop Mr. Holt's name and place Justice Barrett's name at the head of the ticket was reached late yesterday afternoon by the leaders at a conference which began in the office of Lemuel E. Quine, at No. 100 Broadway, and was continued in the office of Everett P. Wheeler, at No. 45 Broadway.

Present at the conference were most of

the members of the Republican committee appointed by the County Convention, the Citizens' Union committee, led by Mr. Wheeler, and members of the City Club's committee.

NOMINATIONS THOSE AGREED UPON AT CITY CLUB CONFERENCE, WITH THE SUBSTITUTION OF JUSTICE BARRETT'S NAME FOR THAT OF GEORGE C. HOLT.

Richard Croker is to-day the State leader of the Democratic party beyond any contest. At a meeting of the State Committee held at the Hoffman House last night he signally defeated ex-Senator David B. Hill, who has contested the leadership with him. Mr. Hill was routed horse, foot and dragon. Mr. Croker did as he pleased, and sat in his chair and smiled and sneered at Mr. Hill's wild protests and vociferous objections. Beside Mr. Croker sat ex-Senator Edward Murphy, Jr., who has allied himself with Mr. Croker to control the State machine, and State Senator Patrick H. McCarron, of Brooklyn, who acted as spokesman for the Croker-Murphy combination. Across the room Mr. Hill sat alone. His faithful lieutenant, Frank Campbell, was in the chair, but he was helpless to stem the tide, and Mr. Hill was overridden on every proposition. Mr. Croker committed the State Committee to the support of William J. Bryan, seated his own candidate of the two contestants from Rochester for place on the State Committee, and in every way did as he pleased.

Hon. A. E. Orr, President of the Board of Rapid Transit, called yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, in reference to your communication of October 6, in regard to the rapid transit contract, as amended by the Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners, and now the contents thereof:

It is needless at this time to repeat what I have already said in the way of suggestions as to how the matter can be settled, as the matter has been quite fully discussed.

The vital modifications appearing in the present contract are not those proposed by the Board of Rapid Transit, but those proposed by the Citizens' Union.

Under ordinary circumstances I should much prefer to approve the present contract, but in

view of the recent developments I have concluded to approve the contract.

NEEDS OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS.

I must however, again urge upon you the very great, and I might say absolute necessity of a prompt construction of the sections of the road to the northern part of the city.

Further, I must again call your attention thereto expressed by me that rapid transit in the lower and central parts of the city will be a convenience, but in the upper parts of the city, especially in the northern part, it will be a convenience, and to the development of the citizens.

As I have already pointed out, the parts of the city which are most in need of rapid transit are the northern sections of the city, and the northern districts are already well provided with means of travel, and it is beyond

the vital necessity of prompt action, I have concluded to approve the contract.

INCREASE IN PROPERTY VALUES.

There can be no doubt that the building of a rapid transit will increase the value of the lands in and the upper part of the Borough of Manhattan, and will produce an immediate effect of a large increase in the value of property, and a corresponding increase in the receipts of the city from taxation.

I think it only fair, therefore, to the taxpayers, upon whom it has been necessary to place a very heavy tax, to propose that the cost of the rapid transit should be apportioned among the citizens.

On the other hand, I have been told that the City Hall and Fifty-ninth Street are already well provided with means of travel, and it is beyond

the vital point to the north that is felt the real need of rapid transit.

In addition to these considerations there is one which appears to me to furnish a very strong ground for the prompt construction of the upper part of the road.

It is true, until very recently, as you know, the city of New-York was unable to undertake this railroad on account of the fact that it had exceeded the limit of its power to contract, and therefore had no further power to contract.

This difficulty has disappeared, however, by reason of the very large increase in capital available for railroad construction.

John Whalen, Corporation Counsel, has borne most heavily upon the Borough of Manhattan.

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This is a matter which I regard as the vital feature of the whole Rapid Transit scheme.

It is not necessary at this time to discuss the details of the proposed form of contract, which appear in the proposed form of contract adopted by the Board in October, 1899, as I have made up my mind to approve the contract.

I have no doubt that the adoption of the modifications of the road should be completed first, as

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